

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for his consideration of this application and of the Amendment and Reply filed on February 9, 2006. Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Upon entry of the above amendments, Claims 1-38 remain pending in this application, with Claims 1, 4, 29, 31, and 35 being independent claims.

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 4-21 and 28 and the allowance of Claims 29-34, as discussed at Pages 3-4 of the Office Action. Applicants have now amended Claim 4 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 1 in a form similar to that in which Claim 1 existed when Claim 4 was first indicated as being allowable. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that Claims 4-21 and 28 are now in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the objections to these claims be withdrawn.

Applicants choose not to amend or to further address the remaining rejected claims (Claims 1-3, 22-27, and 35-38) at this time; however, the Examiner is referred to Applicants' previously-submitted arguments, which Applicants continue to maintain, should he wish to reconsider the rejections of these claims. A Notice of Appeal was filed on February 24, 2006, and Applicants intend to file their Appeal Brief, to appeal the rejections of the remaining rejected claims, in due time.

Applicants: LI et al.
Appl. No. 09/935,610

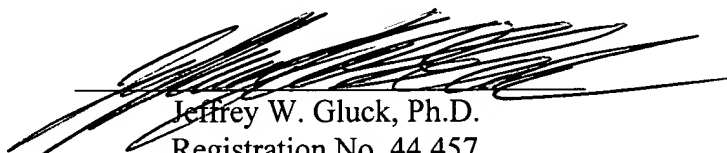
Conclusion

Applicants have, in this Amendment, placed all claims indicated as containing allowable subject matter in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment for entry is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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